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Alice M. Abeel

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*November
1955*

People You Know

IF THE southern chapters were any indication, the Club was really bustin' out all over during the summer months as some members went as far as Greenland (George Wallerstein), Alaska (A. J. Basinger) and Europe (dozens of 'em) to get away from it all—or into something different. Actually, George had to go—his trip, the Army Engineers said, was necessary.

Most of us spent the summer doing what we liked most in the place we liked most—the Sierra, the desert and thereabouts. Rock climbers were everywhere. Too many to report them all, but here are some of their activities: Dick Long, John Dorsey and Jim Wilson made the eighth ascent of Lost Arrow in Yosemite Valley; Mike Sherrick and Ray Van Aken made it next day; Nate and Lewis Clark made their eighth climb of Mt. Clark in Yosemite's Clark range . . . 15 making climbs under Wally Tinsley's leadership at Mt. Williamson angered by cascading boulders launched down the Great Chimney by three independents . . . Harvey Hickman and Lynn Gray climbed east buttress of Whitney, though a dislodged rock severed a

rope on the ascent . . . Jerry Gallwas, Warren Harding, Royal Robbins and Don Wilson spent 2½ days making one-quarter of 2,000-foot northwest face of Yosemite's Half Dome; found rock unsound . . . Kim Malville, Bob Tambling, Fred Martin climbed in Gorge of Despair, back-packing in from South Fork of the Kings River, over the Monarch Divide, and made five first ascents.

Charles Wilts succeeds George Harr as chairman of the Angeles Ski Mountaineers central committee.

Bob and Peggy Crosgrove and Chuck and Ellen Wilts vacationed in the Tetons, found the climbing fine but the heat discouraging. They ran across a peculiar thing: on the ridge of Cloudveil Dome they found a dead mule deer which apparently had climbed the mountain, too, but couldn't get down. Rangers swore they had seen mule deer glissading down other steep snow patches.

Parker Severson also was one of nine club members who ascended Grand Teton, which brings to mind that he objected to being called the "workhorse on the San Jacinto Tramway Project" in a recent SCB. It was Byron Graft who should receive the credit and herewith does so, but sufficient credit for all the things Parker does well can never catch up with him.

Angeles Membership Chairman Walt Heninger has signed the Mt. Baldy Ski Hut register 142 times . . . he has been on 7 high trips, 3 burro trips, 3 base camps, 2 Colorado River tours, climbed 29 of the Desert Peaks qualifiers and isn't tired yet. Walt has sponsored about 100 new members and when he became a life member in 1946 he dropped all other club affiliations but the Pasadena Checker Club . . . he knows 137 ways to play the game, has 25 books on the subject, and claims it is tougher in some ways than chess. All this from Katherine Smith, Southern Sierran columnist.

(Continued on Page 7)

THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

Progress (?)

We'll dam the river
And damn the cost
And those who speak
Of a Paradise Lost.

Now beauty ruined
Is of the past
While the debt incurred
Will last and last. E. H.



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Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 40

NOVEMBER, 1955

NUMBER 9

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE . . .

Federation Convention at Idyllwild

Nearly 250 people braved the Labor Day week-end heat wave to gather at Hidden Lodge, Idyllwild, on the slopes of Mount San Jacinto, for the 24th annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. Officials of the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the State Park Division, as well as interested guests, joined Federation members representing 16 of 30 member clubs. Hosts were the Southern California chapters of the Sierra Club, and the Roamers, Ramblers and Trailfinders.

While the Federation convention serves as a yearly business meeting, the program is always varied. This year there was swimming in a pool under the pines, a climb to the top of San Jacinto, and two highly entertaining campfires.

The business sessions summed up the year's activities of the Federation and covered a broad field of Federation interests. Among the facts and figures brought out: associate membership last year nearly reached the 1,000 mark; 1955 marked the incorporation of the Federation; the need for a "consistent wilderness policy" among all conservation groups was stressed by President Edgar Wayburn; the Federation will sponsor a Wilderness Conference in co-operation with other organizations in the Northwest in March or April of 1956.

Following is a summary of resolutions passed by the delegates:

1. Policy stands taken in 1954 and previous years were reaffirmed. The Federation once more:

a. urged that Dinosaur National Monument be given the dignity of National Park status.

b. expressed support of continued ef-

forts to create a wilderness preserve in Arctic Alaska.

c. endorsed the continuance and initiation of anti-litter campaigns in communities, and by industry.

d. urged the establishment of the Mt. Washington and Diamond Peak Wild Areas as soon as possible.

e. opposed the power development of the Upper McKenzie River.

f. urged the development by the National Park Service, the National Forest Service and state park commissions of adequate facilities for campers outside scenic and wilderness areas.

2. The Federation opposed in principle salvage logging in National Parks.

3. The policy in the Sierra Club study, "A Policy for Roads in National Parks and Monuments" was approved and its adoption by the National Park Service was urged.

4. The stand taken at the Eugene, Oregon, hearing in February 1955 by President Wayburn, urging that the Three Sisters Area be reclassified as a Wilderness Area without reduction in size, was reaffirmed.

5. The Federation recommended to the Forest Service that in the reclassification of the Glacier Peak area in Washington from limited to wilderness status, recognition be given to the surpassing worth of this area, and that its boundaries be established on logical geographic features, essentially as they were originally set forth in 1939.

6. It was urged that appropriate and adequate areas in National Forest lands

(a) be set aside for recreational use; (b) be preserved from lumbering and other conflicting uses; (c) be provided with adequate trails and appropriate camping facilities. The Federation asked that adequate appropriations from public funds be made available to the U.S. Forest Service for such a program.

7. Construction of the Mount San Jacinto Tramway was again opposed. The Federation recommended that the contract between the California State Park Commission and the California Winter Park Authority not be renewed if tramway financing is not completed at expiration of the present contract. The Federation favored abrogation of the Winter Park Authority Act by appropriate means.
8. The Federation urged the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the several state park commissions to classify structural developments (including radio and television facilities) within dedicated areas as being contrary to the principles governing the use of such areas; and to establish policies opposing the approval of applications involving such construction.

Among the matters referred to the President for action were:

1. To recommend to the Park Service and the Department of Interior that structural developments for whatever purpose be consistent with National Park Service principles in preserving the parks in their natural state. The Federation feels that the proposed church on the rim of Grand Canyon is not consistent with these principles.
2. To study a proposal to establish by Congressional action a National Wilderness System; to encourage and assist member clubs and individuals to inform themselves regarding such a system, and to make appropriate recommendations at the next Federation meeting.
3. To authorize the Executive Committee to recommend to the National Park Service that Goblin Valley, Utah, be made a National Monument if, after suitable investigation, it deems it desirable to do so.

4. To authorize the Executive Committee to recommend to British Columbia authorities that the second stage of Upper Campbell Lake dam at Buttle Lake in Strathcona Provincial Park should not be authorized, provided that it is found that Canadian conservation groups welcome such action.

5. To refer to the Outdoor Safety Committee for study and recommendation the problems of educating youth group leaders in mountain safety.

6. To refer to the Conservation Committee for study and recommendation the problem of invasion by military services of dedicated wilderness and wildlife areas.

Newly elected officers of the Federation are: President, Karl Onthank, Obsidians; Washington vice-president, Philip Zalesky, Mountaineers; Oregon vice-president, Paul Gerhardt, Trails Club; California vice-president, George Halloran, Contra Costa Hills Club; California deputy vice-president, Forrest Keck, Sierra Club; Utah vice-president, Elizabeth Larson, Wasatch Mountain Club; Treasurer, Irma Brown, Roamers; Secretary, Frances Newsom, Obsidians; Editor, *Outdoor Quarterly*, Ora Niemela, Chemeketans.

Next year's Federation convention will be held over the Labor Day week end in Spokane, Washington, with the Hobnailers as host club. A California caravan will be arranged for the trip north and will include, if possible, a visit to the Glacier Peak Limited Area en route.

PEGGY WAYBURN

Call for Kodachromes

Members who have especially good 35mm Kodachromes of Glacier National Park are invited to submit them promptly to Walter Maeyers Edwards, Illustrations Editor of *National Geographic Magazine*, keyed to show when, of what, and by whom they were taken. A similar call for Sierra Kodachromes, made three years ago, proved quite helpful to the *Geographic* and rewarding to the photographers too.

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Wilderness Society

*Dick Leonard reports
on an important ally*

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, a national organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., has approximately 8,000 members. This year it celebrates its 20th anniversary as the leading specialist on problems of wilderness preservation in the United States and Canada. The "Council" is the board of directors, with members from all parts of the United States.

Being so widely scattered, the Society has adopted the valuable policy of holding meetings of the Council for three days each year out-of-doors in or near the wilderness area that presents the most pressing problems at the time. Thus, the first Council meeting that Doris and I attended was in 1949 in Olympic National Park, just after the conservation organizations of the nation had succeeded in protecting the Park from the most serious attempts in recent history to

divide up the magnificent rain forests among local timber interests.

In 1950 the problem was the insect infestation of the Flattops Wilderness Area of Colorado, in which 95 per cent of the trees had been killed. We also made a three-day reconnaissance into the heart of Dinosaur National Monument just at the beginning of the great national controversy which is still unsettled.

In 1951 the Council was successful in examining on the spot and saving a wilderness area of many thousands of acres within Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Adirondacks in 1952 presented the people of New York with the opportunity, which they accepted, to retain their constitutional amendment of 1895 to keep their park areas "Forever Wild." The Council crossed the continent in 1953 to check the facts with respect to the damage which would result from a dam proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation which would flood a substantial portion of the winter range of elk that rely for summer range upon the million-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness Area of Montana.

The 30th anniversary of the formal Forest Service wilderness policy was commemorated in 1954 at the dedication of the Aldo Leopold Memorial, honoring the establishment of the Gila Primitive Area in New Mexico 30 years before.

EACH of the meetings of the Council also includes a comprehensive field study of the particular problem for approximately a week, with local and regional officials of the Forest Service, Park Service or other agency having jurisdiction over the area. Thus it is that the Council as a whole has become one of the best qualified groups in the nation to know the relative wilderness values of different areas, and the impact of the problems that affect them.

This year, for instance, seven of the 15 members of the Council devoted a week to a study of 650 miles of one-way Forest Service dirt roads around the perimeter of the 1,900,000-acre Selway-Bitterroot Primitive

What We Must Do

When the second—and final—session of the Eighty-fourth Congress begins in January we can be sure that the proponents of the Echo Park Dam will be on hand, led by Senator Arthur Watkins and his Utah supporters.

What will they do, these Utah-lantes?

Will they continue to hold up any possible Colorado River program by insisting on needlessly invading the National Park System?

Will they join with their more reasonable neighbors in Colorado and other western states and redesign an Upper Colorado Project that will *not* include—or depend upon—Echo Park, but *will insure* protection for our national parks and monuments?

We don't know.

But we do know that we conservationists must stay alert, stay together, and stay mobilized.

—from a letter by Fred Smith,
Director of the Council of
Conservationists, New York

tive Area of Idaho and Montana. The study also included four days of travel by pack train through the heart of the area. Serious problems of policy were discussed on the ground, with the Supervisors of the four National Forests, and at Regional headquarters with the staff officers carrying responsibility for recreation, fire protection, mining, grazing, timber management and other factors. The survey and the conferences were exceptionally productive. The Forest Service will now proceed with its plan for reclassification of the area to the maximum protection afforded by Regulation U-1 as a Wilderness Area, and will publicize the plan nationally before adoption, for comment of other conservation organizations.

The Council also reviewed with the Forest Service and the staff the proposed reclassification of the Teton Primitive Area to Wilderness Area status. The Council particularly commended the Teton National Forest and the Regional office at Ogden on the effective way in which wilderness values have been preserved in the proposed reclassification.

The business meeting of the Council was held at Moose, Wyoming, at the home of President Olaus Murie, honorary member of the Sierra Club, and internationally known for his contributions to the conservation movement. Eleven of the fifteen members

of the Council were present. Richard M. Leonard, A Starker Leopold, George Marshall, James Marshall, Olaus Murie, and William C. Zimmerman were elected for 3-year terms on the Council.

A vigorous discussion was held for over an hour with Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, his Assistant Director, Tom Allen, and Superintendents Edmund B. Rogers of Yellowstone and Francis R. Oberhansley of Grand Teton National Park. The discussion explored the wilderness policy of the National Park Service, particularly with reference to the great primeval parks.

One of the major conservation problems, of course, is the defense of Dinosaur National Monument and the National Park system as a whole. The policy of the Society was reaffirmed that pending bills to authorize the Upper Colorado Project would continue to be opposed until re-engineered so that the Project would not, in fact, depend in any way upon the necessity for construction which would adversely affect any unit of the National Park Service. This, of course, referred particularly to selection of suitable alternatives for an Echo Park dam, so that it would not simply be taken out of the Project on paper and still leave a possible gap in the over-all project.

RICHARD M. LEONARD

A Lesson from the Rocks

Sierran Albert Schatz, co-discoverer of streptomycin, who is Director of Research at the National Agricultural College in Pennsylvania, has written to Assistant Secretary Virginia Ferguson about "a unique reward of my outdoor activities." Dr. Schatz is one of several scientists working on a new theory of tooth decay, which he calls "a direct outgrowth of my study of rock lichens on the West Coast and in the Adirondack Mountains."

Briefly, the theory is that tooth decay may be caused by the same kind of dissolving action that enables lichens to grow on bare rocks and supplies plant roots with soluble soil nutrients. The scientists think this

dissolving action is due to a kind of chemical reaction known as chelation, which makes ordinarily insoluble minerals, such as those present in teeth and in rocks, dissolve in water. Their experiments show that some of the so-called chelators are able to dissolve tooth material more rapidly and to a greater extent than lactic acid, previously the chief villain to tooth decay theorizers.

When Dr. Schatz completes his investigations, and finds how to make nature's dentures last a lifetime, we hope he'll be able to advise our climbers how to keep a hand-hold from crumbling under the malevolent influence of the gremlin lichens of the upper rocks.

People

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People You Know

(Continued from Page 2)

Ruth Simpson, archaeologist and ethnologist of the Southwest Museum, took a group into Black Canyon on the Mojave Desert near Hinkley for a look at some of the southwest's outstanding petroglyphs. The area, if we have our say, will be a state park one of these days.

Helen Daggett, vice-chairman and former chairman of Riverside Chapter, went to Europe for an indefinite stay, while Barbara Ross, another conservation chairman, moved permanently to Santa Cruz. When 23 Riverside Chapter fishermen turned out for a deep sea fishing trip it was found that, like the Mexican Army, they had too many officers—almost half of them were mates, and first mates, at that. Nevertheless Marge Jones captured a moray eel and landed a shark.

San Diego's Virginia Gilloon overheard a crotchety member at Minarets Base Camp mutter that "these people (his fellow Sierrans) will never do anything for conservation; all they are interested in is a cheap family vacation." Virginia didn't think so, but did some wondering.

"Do we have a right to have a camp for six weeks in the same spot?" she asked. "Now the meadows are trampled bare, campsites are powder, paths become worn trails, the site of the evening fire moved several times, scarring more than one meadow . . . Balance is a wonderful thing—on a talus slope and in an organization."

DAN L. THRAPP

New Assignments In Federal Service

Recent moves in the Forest and Park services include:

Clare Hendee, Regional Forester in charge of the California Region since 1951, to Washington to be an assistant chief of the Forest Service, with supervision of administrative management and information activities.

Allen F. Miller, Supervisor of the Stanislaus National Forest, to Washington to be an assistant to the Chief of Recreation and Lands of the Forest Service, in charge of implementing the new mining legislation (Public Law 167) relating to the multiple use of surface rights in the management of national forest lands.

Harthon L. Bill, Assistant Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, to Santa Fe, N.M., to be assistant regional director of Region Three. He was replaced by Keith P. Neilson, a National Park Service finance officer.

Almanac

TO ARRIVE too early in the marsh is an adventure in pure listening; the ear roams at will among the noises of the night, without let or hindrance from hand or eye. When you hear a mallard being audibly enthusiastic about his soup, you are free to picture a score guzzling among the duckweeds. When one widgeon squeals, you may postulate a squadron without fear of visual contradiction. And when a flock of bluebills, pitching pondward, tears the dark silk of heaven in one long rending nosedive, you catch your breath at the sound, but there is nothing to see but stars.

The hour of listening ends when the fowl depart on muted wings for wider, safer waters, each flock a blur against the graying east.

Like many another treaty of restraint, the predawn pact lasts only as long as darkness humbles the arrogant. It would seem as if the sun were responsible for the daily retreat of reticence from the world. At any rate, by the time the mists are white over the lowlands, every rooster is bragging ad lib, and every corn shock is pretending to be twice as tall as any corn that ever grew. By sunup every squirrel is exaggerating some fancied indignity to his person, and every jay is proclaiming with false emotion about suppositious dangers to society, at this very moment discovered by him. Distant crows are berating a hypothetical owl, just to tell the world how vigilant crows are, and a pheasant cock, musing perhaps on his philanderings of bygone days, beats the air with his wings and tells the world in raucous warning that he owns this marsh and all the hens in it.

Nor are all these illusions of grandeur confined to the birds and beasts. By breakfast time come the honks, horns, shouts, and whistles of the awakened farmyard, and finally, at evening, the drone of an untended radio. Then everybody goes to bed to relearn the lessons of the night.

ALDO LEOPOLD

A Sand County Almanac
(New York: Oxford University Press, 1949)

Along Many Trails

NEW MEMBERS are always astonished at the number and variety of Sierra Club committees when the list of committee chairmen is published annually. There are 28 separate committees on the active list and though they are arranged alphabetically here, they actually fall into a few groups according to their function. Most important are those concerned with the primary purposes of the Club: Conservation, Visual Education, Editorial, Public Relations are some of them. The activities group is the best known: Outings, Winter Sports, Mountaineering, etc. The less known groups are concerned with internal affairs such as Elections, Library, Lodges, Membership; and finally an important series of small committees takes care of our financial, legal, and office problems.

The printed list shows only the bare bones of the framework around which the Club is organized; the working power comes from

the nearly 30 chairmen and the almost 200 members they bring into the committees. The success of everything the Club undertakes depends on these committees, and as our membership grows the directors must rely more and more on them to handle Club affairs. To take some of the load of organizing committees from the shoulders of the Executive Committee and to help chairmen find new talent, the directors recently created the Committee on Committees.

A complicating factor in keeping experienced chairmen on our committees is the modern tendency to move around more frequently, whether in the educational, military, or business world, often at very short notice. For this reason, Club leaders are hoping that chairmen will try to include on each committee several members who might be able to step into the chairmanship in the future.

CICELY M. CHRISTY
Committee on Committees

Committee Chairmen Named

Following is a list of Sierra Club committees and their chairmen for the current year: Committee on Committees: *Cicely M. Christy*;

Clair Tappaan Lodge: *James E. Mulholland*;

Conservation: *Dr. Edgar Wayburn*;

Editorial Board: *August Frugé*;

Conservation Administration: *Dr. Edgar Wayburn*;

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs: *Arthur H. Blake*;

Historical: *Mr. and Mrs. John P. Schagen*;

Insurance: *Robert L. Lipman*;

Investment and Accounting: *Clifford V. Heimbucher*;

Judges of Election: *Catherine Tubby*;

Legal: *Francis M. Wheat*;

Library: *Margaret Jones*;

Lodges and Lands: *Laurence Burnley*;

Membership: *Kenneth D. Adam*;

Morley Fund: *Boynton S. Kaiser*;

Mountaineering: *Hervey H. Voge*;

Natural Sciences: *Richard D. Taber*;

Nominating: *Arthur H. Blake*;

Office Personnel: *Boynton S. Kaiser*;

Outings: *Dr. H. Stewart Kimball*;

Place Names: *Erwin G. Gudde*;

Public Relations: *William J. Losh*;

River Touring: *Bruce B. Grant*;

Sierra Club Council: *Nathan C. Clark*;

Trails: *Walter A. Starr*;

Visual Education: *Charlotte E. Mauk*;

Wilderness Conference: *George Collins*,

George James;

Winter Sports: *John A. Linford*.

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